

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 14, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 28, 2015

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 6, 2015

SENATE BILL

No. 610

Introduced by Senator Pan

February 27, 2015

An act to amend Sections 14087.325 and 14132.100 of the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to Medi-Cal.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 610, as amended, Pan. Medi-Cal: federally qualified health centers: rural health clinics: managed care contracts.

Existing law provides for the Medi-Cal program, which is administered by the State Department of Health Care Services and under which qualified low-income persons receive health care benefits. The Medi-Cal program is, in part, governed and funded by federal Medicaid provisions. Existing law provides that federally qualified health center (FQHC) services and rural health clinic (RHC) services, as defined, are covered benefits under the Medi-Cal program to be reimbursed, to the extent that federal financial participation is obtained, to providers on a per-visit basis.

Existing law authorizes an FQHC or RHC to apply for an adjustment to its per-visit rate, based on a change in the scope of services provided, as prescribed. Existing law establishes alternative ratesetting procedures with respect to a new entity that first qualifies as an FQHC or RHC in the year 2001 or later, a newly licensed facility at a new location added to an existing FQHC or RHC or an existing FQHC or RHC that is relocated. Two of the procedures are referred to as comparability

approaches, based on the rates of 3 similarly situated FQHCs and RHCs. The 3rd procedure requires, at a new entity's one-time election, that the department establish the reimbursement rate, calculated on a per-visit basis, that equals 100% of the projected allowable costs to the FQHC or RHC of furnishing services during its first 12 months of operation as an FQHC or RHC.

This bill would require the department to finalize a new rate within ~~90 days~~ *1 year* after an FQHC's or RHC's submission of a scope-of-service rate change. With respect to a new FQHC or RHC that has elected for the department to establish its reimbursement rate based on projected allowable costs as described above, this bill would require the department to finalize that rate within ~~90 days~~ *1 year* after the submission of the actual cost report from the first full 12 months of operation, as specified.

This bill would revise the department's responsibilities with respect to a new entity or a relocated FQHC or RHC that selects either of the comparability approaches. The bill would require the department to review the comparable facilities to determine if any of them do not meet the comparability threshold and, if so, to notify the new entity, and request a supplemental submission, as prescribed. The bill would require the department to conduct an initial review of a scope-of-service rate change request within 30 days after submission by the FQHC or RHC, and notify the FQHC or RHC by the 31st day after submission if the department determines that additional information is necessary, as prescribed. The bill would require the department to finalize the FQHC's or RHC's rate within ~~90 days~~ *1 year* after receiving a submission the department determines to be complete.

This bill would require the department to correct erroneous payments at least quarterly to reprocess past claims and ensure all claims are reimbursed at the appropriate finalized new rate.

Existing law requires the department to administer a program to ensure that total payments to FQHCs and RHCs operating as managed care subcontractors comply with applicable federal law regarding payment for services provided by FQHCs and RHCs. Under the department's program, existing law requires FQHCs and RHCs subcontracting with specified managed care plans to seek supplemental reimbursement from the department through a per visit fee-for-service billing system. To be reimbursed under these provisions, existing law requires each FQHC and RHC to submit to the department for approval a rate differential based on the FQHC's or RHC's reasonable cost or the prospective

payment rate. Within 6 months of the end of the FQHC's or RHC's fiscal year, existing law requires, to the extent feasible, the department to perform an annual reconciliation to reasonable cost, and make payments to, or obtain recovery from, the FQHC or RHC.

This bill would impose various requirements on the department regarding the reconciliation process described above. The bill would require the department to complete the final reconciliation review and pay to the center or clinic any remaining amount owed within ~~15 months~~ of 18 months after the last date of the fiscal year for which the department is conducting the review.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 14087.325 of the Welfare and Institutions
2 Code is amended to read:
3 14087.325. (a) The department shall require, as a condition
4 of obtaining a contract with the department, that any local initiative,
5 as defined in Section 53810 of Title 22 of the California Code of
6 Regulations, offer a subcontract to any entity defined in Section
7 1396d(l)(2)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code providing
8 services as defined in Section 1396d(a)(2)(C) of Title 42 of the
9 United States Code and operating in the service area covered by
10 the local initiative's contract with the department. These entities
11 are also known as federally qualified health centers.
12 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, managed care
13 subcontracts offered to a federally qualified health center or a rural
14 health clinic, as defined in Section 1396d(l)(1) of Title 42 of the
15 United States Code, by a local initiative, county organized health
16 system, as defined in Section 12693.05 of the Insurance Code,
17 commercial plan, as defined in Section 53810 of Title 22 of the
18 California Code of Regulations, or a health plan contracting with
19 a geographic managed care program, as defined in subdivision (g)
20 of Section 53902 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations,
21 shall be on the same terms and conditions offered to other
22 subcontractors providing a similar scope of service. Any
23 beneficiary, subscriber, or enrollee of a program or plan who
24 affirmatively selects, or is assigned by default to, a federally
25 qualified health center or rural health clinic under the terms of a

1 contract between a plan, government program, or any subcontractor
2 of a plan or program, and a federally qualified health center or
3 rural health clinic, shall be assigned directly to the federally
4 qualified health center or rural health clinic, and not to any
5 individual provider performing services on behalf of the federally
6 qualified health center or rural health clinic.

7 (c) The department shall provide incentives in the competitive
8 application process described in paragraph (1) of subdivision (b)
9 of Section 53800 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations,
10 to encourage potential commercial plans as defined in Section
11 53810 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations to offer
12 subcontracts to these federally qualified health centers.

13 (d) Reimbursement to federally qualified health centers and
14 rural health centers for services provided pursuant to a subcontract
15 with a local initiative, a commercial plan, geographic managed
16 care program health plan, or a county organized health system,
17 shall be paid in a manner that is not less than the level and amount
18 of payment that the plan would make for the same scope of services
19 if the services were furnished by a provider that is not a federally
20 qualified health center or rural health clinic.

21 (e) ~~(f)~~—The department shall administer a program to ensure
22 that total payments to federally qualified health centers and rural
23 health clinics operating as managed care subcontractors pursuant
24 to subdivision (d) comply with applicable federal law pursuant to
25 Sections 1902(bb) and 1903(m)(2)(A)(ix) of the Social Security
26 Act (42 U.S.C. Secs. 1396a(bb) and 1396b(m)(2)(A)(ix)). Under
27 the department's program, federally qualified health centers and
28 rural health clinics subcontracting with local initiatives, commercial
29 plans, county organized health systems, and geographic managed
30 care program health plans shall seek supplemental reimbursement
31 from the department through a per visit fee-for-service billing
32 system utilizing the state's Medi-Cal fee-for-service claims
33 processing system contractor. To carry out this per visit payment
34 process, each federally qualified health system and rural health
35 clinic shall submit to the department for approval a rate differential
36 calculated to reflect the amount necessary to reimburse the federally
37 qualified health center or rural health clinic for the difference
38 between the payment the center or clinic received from the
39 managed care health plan and either the interim rate established
40 by the department based on the center's or clinic's reasonable cost

1 or the center's or clinic's prospective payment rate. The department
2 shall adjust the computed rate differential as it deems necessary
3 to minimize the difference between the center's or clinic's revenue
4 from the plan and the center's or clinic's cost-based reimbursement
5 or the center's or clinic's prospective payment rate.

6 ~~(A)~~

7 (1) In addition, the department shall perform an annual
8 reconciliation to reasonable cost, and make payments to, or obtain
9 a recovery from, the center or clinic.

10 ~~(B)~~

11 (2) The department shall perform an initial review of the
12 reconciliation filing within 30 days ~~of~~ *after* receipt. If the
13 department determines during the initial review that a payment is
14 owed to the center or clinic, the department shall pay to the center
15 or clinic at least 80 percent of the amount owed within 30 days ~~of~~
16 *after* completion of the initial review or in any event within 60
17 days ~~of~~ *after* receipt of the reconciliation filing.

18 ~~(C)~~

19 (3) The department shall complete the final reconciliation review
20 and shall pay to the center or clinic the remaining amount owed
21 ~~within 15 months of~~ *18 months after* the last date of the fiscal year
22 for which the department is conducting the review.

23 (f) In calculating the capitation rates to be paid to local
24 initiatives, commercial plans, geographic managed care program
25 health plans, and county organized health systems, the department
26 shall not include the additional dollar amount applicable to
27 cost-based reimbursement that would otherwise be paid, absent
28 cost-based reimbursement, to federally qualified health centers
29 and rural health clinics in the Medi-Cal fee-for-service program.

30 (g) On or before September 30, 2002, the director shall conduct
31 a study of the actual and projected impact of the transition from a
32 cost-based reimbursement system to a prospective payment system
33 for federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics. In
34 conducting the study, the director shall evaluate the extent to which
35 the prospective payment system stimulates expansion of services,
36 including new facilities to expand capacity of the centers, and the
37 extent to which actual and estimated prospective payment rates of
38 federally qualified health centers and rural health clinics for the
39 first five years of the prospective payment system are reflective
40 of the cost of providing services to Medi-Cal beneficiaries. Clinics

1 may submit cost reporting information to the department to provide
2 data for the study.

3 (h) The department shall approve all contracts between federally
4 qualified health centers or rural health clinics and any local
5 initiative, commercial plan, geographic managed care program
6 health plan, or county organized health system in order to ensure
7 compliance with this section.

8 (i) This section shall not preclude the department from
9 establishing pilot programs pursuant to Section 14087.329.

10 SEC. 2. Section 14132.100 of the Welfare and Institutions
11 Code is amended to read:

12 14132.100. (a) The federally qualified health center services
13 described in Section 1396d(a)(2)(C) of Title 42 of the United States
14 Code are covered benefits.

15 (b) The rural health clinic services described in Section
16 1396d(a)(2)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code are covered
17 benefits.

18 (c) Federally qualified health center services and rural health
19 clinic services shall be reimbursed on a per-visit basis in
20 accordance with the definition of “visit” set forth in subdivision
21 (g).

22 (d) Effective October 1, 2004, and on each October ~~1~~, *1*
23 thereafter, until no longer required by federal law, federally
24 qualified health center (FQHC) and rural health clinic (RHC)
25 per-visit rates shall be increased by the Medicare Economic Index
26 applicable to primary care services in the manner provided for in
27 Section 1396a(bb)(3)(A) of Title 42 of the United States Code.
28 Prior to January 1, 2004, FQHC and RHC per-visit rates shall be
29 adjusted by the Medicare Economic Index in accordance with the
30 methodology set forth in the state plan in effect on October 1,
31 2001.

32 (e) (1) An FQHC or RHC may apply for an adjustment to its
33 per-visit rate based on a change in the scope of services provided
34 by the FQHC or RHC. Rate changes based on a change in the
35 scope of services provided by an FQHC or RHC shall be evaluated
36 in accordance with Medicare reasonable cost principles, as set
37 forth in Part 413 (commencing with Section 413.1) of Title 42 of
38 the Code of Federal Regulations, or its successor.

(2) Subject to the conditions set forth in subparagraphs (A) to (D), inclusive, of paragraph (3), a change in scope of service means any of the following:

(A) The addition of a new FQHC or RHC service that is not incorporated in the baseline prospective payment system (PPS) rate, or a deletion of an FQHC or RHC service that is incorporated in the baseline PPS rate.

(B) A change in service due to amended regulatory requirements or rules.

(C) A change in service resulting from relocating or remodeling an FQHC or RHC.

(D) A change in types of services due to a change in applicable technology and medical practice utilized by the center or clinic.

(E) An increase in service intensity attributable to changes in the types of patients served, including, but not limited to, populations with HIV or AIDS, or other chronic diseases, or homeless, elderly, migrant, or other special populations.

(F) Any changes in any of the services described in subdivision (a) or (b), or in the provider mix of an FQHC or RHC or one of its sites.

(G) Changes in operating costs attributable to capital expenditures associated with a modification of the scope of any of the services described in subdivision (a) or (b), including new or expanded service facilities, regulatory compliance, or changes in technology or medical practices at the center or clinic.

(H) Indirect medical education adjustments and a direct graduate medical education payment that reflects the costs of providing teaching services to interns and residents.

(I) Any changes in the scope of a project approved by the federal Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA).

(3) No change in costs shall, in and of itself, be considered a scope-of-service change unless all of the following apply:

(A) The increase or decrease in cost is attributable to an increase or decrease in the scope of services defined in subdivisions (a) and (b), as applicable.

(B) The cost is allowable under Medicare reasonable cost principles set forth in Part 413 (commencing with Section 413) of Subchapter B of Chapter 4 of Title 42 of the Code of Federal Regulations, or its successor.

1 (C) The change in the scope of services is a change in the type,
2 intensity, duration, or amount of services, or any combination
3 thereof.

4 (D) The net change in the FQHC's or RHC's rate equals or
5 exceeds 1.75 percent for the affected FQHC or RHC site. For
6 FQHCs and RHCs that filed consolidated cost reports for multiple
7 sites to establish the initial prospective payment reimbursement
8 rate, the 1.75-percent threshold shall be applied to the average
9 per-visit rate of all sites for the purposes of calculating the cost
10 associated with a scope-of-service change. "Net change" means
11 the per-visit rate change attributable to the cumulative effect of all
12 increases and decreases for a particular fiscal year.

13 (4) An FQHC or RHC may submit requests for scope-of-service
14 changes once per fiscal year, only within 90 days following the
15 beginning of the FQHC's or RHC's fiscal year. Any approved
16 increase or decrease in the provider's rate shall be retroactive to
17 the beginning of the FQHC's or RHC's fiscal year in which the
18 request is submitted.

19 (5) An FQHC or RHC shall submit a scope-of-service rate
20 change request within 90 days after the beginning of any FQHC
21 or RHC fiscal year occurring after the effective date of this section,
22 if, during the FQHC's or RHC's prior fiscal year, the FQHC or
23 RHC experienced a decrease in the scope of services provided that
24 the FQHC or RHC either knew or should have known would have
25 resulted in a significantly lower per-visit rate. If an FQHC or RHC
26 discontinues providing onsite pharmacy or dental services, it shall
27 submit a scope-of-service rate change request within 90 days after
28 the beginning of the following fiscal year. The rate change shall
29 be effective as provided for in paragraph (4). As used in this
30 paragraph, "significantly lower" means an average per-visit rate
31 decrease in excess of 2.5 percent.

32 (6) (A) The department shall conduct an initial review of a
33 scope-of-service rate change request within 30 days after
34 submission by an FQHC or RHC.

35 (B) If the department determines that additional information is
36 necessary to finalize a new rate, the department shall notify the
37 FQHC or RHC, no later than the 31st day after submission. The
38 notification shall state the reason or reasons the submitted
39 information is insufficient and shall request submission of
40 supplemental information from the FQHC or RHC.

1 (C) Within ~~90 days~~ *one year* after receiving a submission that
2 it determines to be complete, the department shall finalize the
3 FQHC's or RHC's rate and shall update the provider master file
4 within 10 business days.

5 (7) Notwithstanding paragraph (4), if the approved
6 scope-of-service change or changes were initially implemented
7 on or after the first day of an FQHC's or RHC's fiscal year ending
8 in calendar year 2001, but before the adoption and issuance of
9 written instructions for applying for a scope-of-service change,
10 the adjusted reimbursement rate for that scope-of-service change
11 shall be made retroactive to the date the scope-of-service change
12 was initially implemented. Scope-of-service changes under this
13 paragraph shall be required to be submitted within the later of 150
14 days after the adoption and issuance of the written instructions by
15 the department, or 150 days after the end of the FQHC's or RHC's
16 fiscal year ending in 2003.

17 (8) All references in this subdivision to "fiscal year" shall be
18 construed to be references to the fiscal year of the individual FQHC
19 or RHC, as the case may be.

20 (f) (1) An FQHC or RHC may request a supplemental payment
21 if extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the FQHC
22 or RHC occur after December 31, 2001, and PPS payments are
23 insufficient due to these extraordinary circumstances. Supplemental
24 payments arising from extraordinary circumstances under this
25 subdivision shall be solely and exclusively within the discretion
26 of the department and shall not be subject to subdivision (l). These
27 supplemental payments shall be determined separately from the
28 scope-of-service adjustments described in subdivision (e).
29 Extraordinary circumstances include, but are not limited to, acts
30 of nature, changes in applicable requirements in the Health and
31 Safety Code, changes in applicable licensure requirements, and
32 changes in applicable rules or regulations. Mere inflation of costs
33 alone, absent extraordinary circumstances, shall not be grounds
34 for supplemental payment. If an FQHC's or RHC's PPS rate is
35 sufficient to cover its overall costs, including those associated with
36 the extraordinary circumstances, then a supplemental payment is
37 not warranted.

38 (2) The department shall accept requests for supplemental
39 payment at any time throughout the prospective payment rate year.

(3) Requests for supplemental payments shall be submitted in writing to the department and shall set forth the reasons for the request. Each request shall be accompanied by sufficient documentation to enable the department to act upon the request. Documentation shall include the data necessary to demonstrate that the circumstances for which supplemental payment is requested meet the requirements set forth in this section. Documentation shall include all of the following:

(A) A presentation of data to demonstrate reasons for the FQHC's or RHC's request for a supplemental payment.

(B) Documentation showing the cost implications. The cost impact shall be material and significant, two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) or 1 percent of a facility's total costs, whichever is less.

(4) A request shall be submitted for each affected year.

(5) Amounts granted for supplemental payment requests shall be paid as lump-sum amounts for those years and not as revised PPS rates, and shall be repaid by the FQHC or RHC to the extent that it is not expended for the specified purposes.

(6) The department shall notify the provider of the department's discretionary decision in writing.

(g) (1) An FQHC or RHC "visit" means a face-to-face encounter between an FQHC or RHC patient and a physician, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, certified nurse-midwife, clinical psychologist, licensed clinical social worker, or a visiting nurse. For purposes of this section, "physician" shall be interpreted in a manner consistent with the *federal* Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Medicare Rural Health Clinic and Federally Qualified Health Center Manual (Publication 27), or its successor, only to the extent that it defines the professionals whose services are reimbursable on a per-visit basis and not as to the types of services that these professionals may render during these visits and shall include a physician and surgeon, podiatrist, dentist, optometrist, and chiropractor. A visit shall also include a face-to-face encounter between an FQHC or RHC patient and a comprehensive perinatal services practitioner, as defined in Section 51179.1 of Title 22 of the California Code of Regulations, providing comprehensive perinatal services, a four-hour day of attendance at an adult day health care center, and any other provider identified in the state plan's definition of an FQHC or RHC visit.

1 (2) (A) A visit shall also include a face-to-face encounter
2 between an FQHC or RHC patient and a dental hygienist or a
3 dental hygienist in alternative practice.

4 (B) Notwithstanding subdivision (e), an FQHC or RHC that
5 currently includes the cost of the services of a dental hygienist in
6 alternative practice for the purposes of establishing its FQHC or
7 RHC rate shall apply for an adjustment to its per-visit rate, and,
8 after the rate adjustment has been approved by the department,
9 shall bill these services as a separate visit. However, multiple
10 encounters with dental professionals that take place on the same
11 day shall constitute a single visit. The department shall develop
12 the appropriate forms to determine which FQHC's or ~~RHC~~ RHC's
13 rates shall be adjusted and to facilitate the calculation of the
14 adjusted rates. An FQHC's or RHC's application for, or the
15 department's approval of, a rate adjustment pursuant to this
16 subparagraph shall not constitute a change in scope of service
17 within the meaning of subdivision (e). An FQHC or RHC that
18 applies for an adjustment to its rate pursuant to this subparagraph
19 may continue to bill for all other FQHC or RHC visits at its existing
20 per-visit rate, subject to reconciliation, until the rate adjustment
21 for visits between an FQHC or RHC patient and a dental hygienist
22 or a dental hygienist in alternative practice has been approved.
23 Any approved increase or decrease in the provider's rate shall be
24 made within six months after the date of receipt of the department's
25 rate adjustment forms pursuant to this subparagraph and shall be
26 retroactive to the beginning of the fiscal year in which the FQHC
27 or RHC submits the request, but in no case shall the effective date
28 be earlier than January 1, 2008.

29 (C) An FQHC or RHC that does not provide dental hygienist
30 or dental hygienist in alternative practice services, and later elects
31 to add these services, shall process the addition of these services
32 as a change in scope of service pursuant to subdivision (e).

33 (h) If FQHC or RHC services are partially reimbursed by a
34 third-party payer, such as a managed care entity (as defined in
35 Section 1396u-2(a)(1)(B) of Title 42 of the United States Code),
36 the Medicare Program, or the Child Health and Disability
37 Prevention (CHDP) program, the department shall reimburse an
38 FQHC or RHC for the difference between its per-visit PPS rate
39 and receipts from other plans or programs on a contract-by-contract
40 basis and not in the aggregate, and may not include managed care

1 financial incentive payments that are required by federal law to
2 be excluded from the calculation.

3 (i) (1) An entity that first qualifies as an FQHC or RHC in the
4 year 2001 or later, a newly licensed facility at a new location added
5 to an existing FQHC or RHC, and any entity that is an existing
6 FQHC or RHC that is relocated to a new site shall each have its
7 reimbursement rate established in accordance with one of the
8 following methods, as selected by the FQHC or RHC:

9 (A) The rate may be calculated on a per-visit basis in an amount
10 that is equal to the average of the per-visit rates of three comparable
11 FQHCs or RHCs located in the same or adjacent area with a similar
12 caseload.

13 (B) In the absence of three comparable FQHCs or RHCs with
14 a similar caseload, the rate may be calculated on a per-visit basis
15 in an amount that is equal to the average of the per-visit rates of
16 three comparable FQHCs or RHCs located in the same or an
17 adjacent service area, or in a reasonably similar geographic area
18 with respect to relevant social, health care, and economic
19 characteristics.

20 (C) At a new entity's one-time election, the department shall
21 establish a reimbursement rate, calculated on a per-visit basis, that
22 is equal to 100 percent of the projected allowable costs to the
23 FQHC or RHC of furnishing FQHC or RHC services during the
24 first 12 months of operation as an FQHC or RHC. After the first
25 12-month period, the projected per-visit rate shall be increased by
26 the Medicare Economic Index (*MEI*) then in effect. The projected
27 allowable costs for the first 12 months shall be cost settled and the
28 prospective payment reimbursement rate shall be adjusted based
29 on actual and allowable cost per visit. The department shall finalize
30 a new rate within ~~90 days~~ *one year* after the submission of the
31 actual cost report from the first full 12 months of operation and
32 shall update the department provider master file within 10 business
33 days ~~of~~ *after* finalizing the rate.

34 (D) The department may adopt any further and additional
35 methods of setting reimbursement rates for newly qualified FQHCs
36 or RHCs as are consistent with Section 1396a(bb)(4) of Title 42
37 of the United States Code.

38 (2) (A) In order for an FQHC or RHC to establish the
39 comparability of its caseload, the department shall require that the
40 FQHC or RHC submit its most recent annual utilization report as

submitted to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, unless the FQHC or RHC was not required to file an annual utilization report. FQHCs or RHCs that have experienced changes in their services or caseload subsequent to the filing of the annual utilization report may submit to the department a completed report in the format applicable to the prior calendar year. FQHCs or RHCs that have not previously submitted an annual utilization report shall submit to the department a completed report in the format applicable to the prior calendar year. The FQHC or RHC shall not be required to submit the annual utilization report for the comparable FQHCs or RHCs to the department, but shall be required to identify the comparable FQHCs or RHCs. This paragraph shall apply only to a facility that selects the comparability approach described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1).

(B) The department shall conduct an initial review of the three FQHCs or RHCs for the purpose of determining comparability within 30 days ~~of~~ *after* submission by the new entity. If the department determines one or more of the submitted centers or clinics do not meet the comparability threshold, the department shall notify the new entity no later than the 31st day after submission.

(C) The notification shall state the reason or reasons for the finding of noncomparability and shall request a supplemental submission from the new entity. The request shall clearly state whether the new entity shall submit data from one, two, or three FQHCs or RHCs to meet the comparability threshold. Once the new entity submits its supplemental information, the initial review process described in subparagraph (B) shall apply.

(D) ~~Within 90 days~~ *one year* after receiving a submission determined by the department to be comparable, the department shall finalize the new entity's rate and shall update the provider master file within 10 business days.

(3) The rate for any newly qualified entity set forth under this subdivision shall be effective retroactively to the later of the date that the entity was first qualified by the applicable federal agency as an FQHC or RHC, the date a new facility at a new location was added to an existing FQHC or RHC, or the date on which an existing FQHC or RHC was relocated to a new site. The FQHC or RHC shall be permitted to continue billing for Medi-Cal covered

1 benefits on a fee-for-service basis until it is informed of its
2 enrollment as an FQHC or RHC, and the department shall reconcile
3 the difference between the fee-for-service payments and the
4 FQHC's or RHC's prospective payment rate at that time.

5 (j) Visits occurring at an intermittent clinic site, as defined in
6 subdivision (h) of Section 1206 of the Health and Safety Code, of
7 an existing FQHC or RHC, or in a mobile unit as defined by
8 paragraph (2) of subdivision (b) of Section 1765.105 of the Health
9 and Safety Code, shall be billed by and reimbursed at the same
10 rate as the FQHC or RHC establishing the intermittent clinic site
11 or the mobile unit, subject to the right of the FQHC or RHC to
12 request a scope-of-service adjustment to the rate.

13 (k) An FQHC or RHC may elect to have pharmacy or dental
14 services reimbursed on a fee-for-service basis, utilizing the current
15 fee schedules established for those services. These costs shall be
16 adjusted out of the FQHC's or RHC's clinic base rate as
17 scope-of-service changes. An FQHC or RHC that reverses its
18 election under this subdivision shall revert to its prior rate, subject
19 to an increase to account for all MEI increases occurring during
20 the intervening time period, and subject to any increase or decrease
21 associated with applicable scope-of-services adjustments as
22 provided in subdivision (e).

23 (l) FQHCs and RHCs may appeal a grievance or complaint
24 concerning ratesetting, scope-of-service changes, and settlement
25 of cost report audits, in the manner prescribed by Section 14171.
26 The rights and remedies provided under this subdivision are
27 cumulative to the rights and remedies available under all other
28 provisions of law of this state.

29 (m) The department shall, by no later than March 30, 2008,
30 promptly seek all necessary federal approvals in order to implement
31 this section, including any amendments to the state plan. To the
32 extent that any element or requirement of this section is not
33 approved, the department shall submit a request to the federal
34 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for any waivers that
35 would be necessary to implement this section.

36 (n) The department shall implement this section only to the
37 extent that federal financial participation is obtained.

38 (o) The department shall correct erroneous payments at least
39 quarterly to reprocess past claims and ensure all claims are

- 1 reimbursed at the finalized new rate determined pursuant to either
- 2 subdivision (e) or (i).

O